



STATE OF MAINE  
COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS  
AND ELECTION PRACTICES  
135 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0135

**Agenda**

**Meeting of September 29, 2004**

1:00 p.m., Commission Offices, 242 State Street, Augusta, Maine

**1. Ratification of minutes of September 8, 2004 meeting**

**2. Request for Matching Funds by Senate Republican Leaders**

Through their attorney Daniel I. Billings, Senate Minority Leader Paul T. Davis, Sr. and Assistant Minority Leader Chandler E. Woodcock filed a request for a determination whether they are entitled to matching funds based upon an expenditure by the Senate Democratic Campaign Committee on radio advertisements. The ads include the language: "It's time for the voters to retire these Republican Leaders." A transcript of the ad and a response from the Democrats is attached, along with a brief memo citing the relevant laws.

**3. Request Regarding 2002 Report by People for a Strong Maine Economy**

The Commission received a request from Andre E. Cushing regarding information missing from a December 17, 2002 report by the People for a Strong Maine Economy political action committee. In 2003, the Commission staff wrote the PAC twice to request the information. *Recommendation: the Commission staff recommends that it send a letter to the PAC's former treasurer stating that the PAC violated Chapter 1, Section 5(2) of the Commission's Rules by not reporting the information.*

**4. Request for Guidance from Trade Associations on Independent Expenditures**

This agenda item was continued from the September 8 meeting. A number of trade associations have requested guidance regarding the 2003 change in the law of independent expenditures.

**5. Complaints Regarding Probate Court Judge Robert M.A. Nadeau**

Two complaints were filed with the Ethics Commission against York County Probate Court Judge Robert M.A. Nadeau regarding over-the-limit contributions and other issues of professional ethics. The only issues that appear to be within the jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission were two over-the-limit contributions from the Judge's law firm and a corporate contributor. Judge Nadeau has requested to participate by telephone. *Recommendation: the staff recommends that the Commission send a letter to the candidate stating that both contributions violated the \$250 contribution limit.*

#### **6. Sufficiency of the Maine Clean Election Fund for the 2006 Elections**

The Commission Director met with the Bureau of the Budget to discuss the Commission's budget request for the 2005-06 and 2006-07 biennium. The staff recommends that the Commission request that additional cash be transferred from the General Fund to the Maine Clean Election Fund to ensure that there are sufficient funds to pay participating candidates in the 2006 elections.

#### **7. Recounts for the General Election**

The Commission staff has written a draft letter to Legislative Leaders regarding recounts in the General Election.

#### **8. Post-Election Matters**

The Commission staff would like to discuss conducting a post-election survey of candidates and others to solicit input on the Maine Clean Election Act and other issues. Also, the staff would like to briefly discuss its interest in proposing legislation for the Commission members' consideration at a future meeting.

#### **9. Meeting Dates in November and December**

#### **Other**

Miscellaneous as needed.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

If necessary.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**